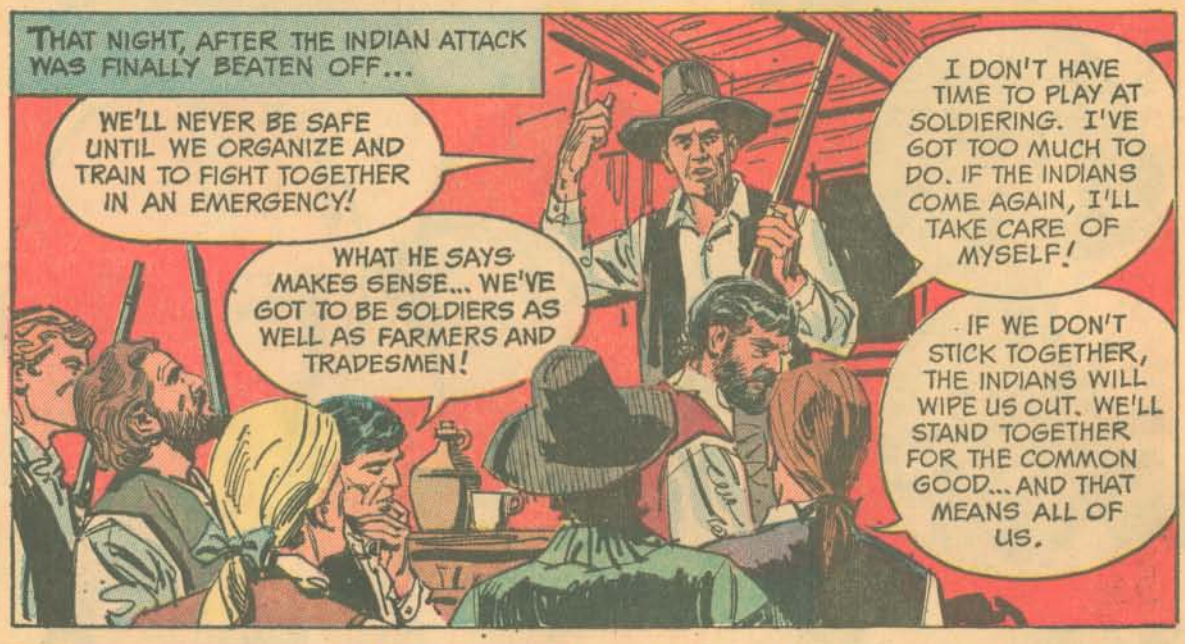
READY THEN READY NOW

How the National Guard has been meeting the challenge in three centuries of service.



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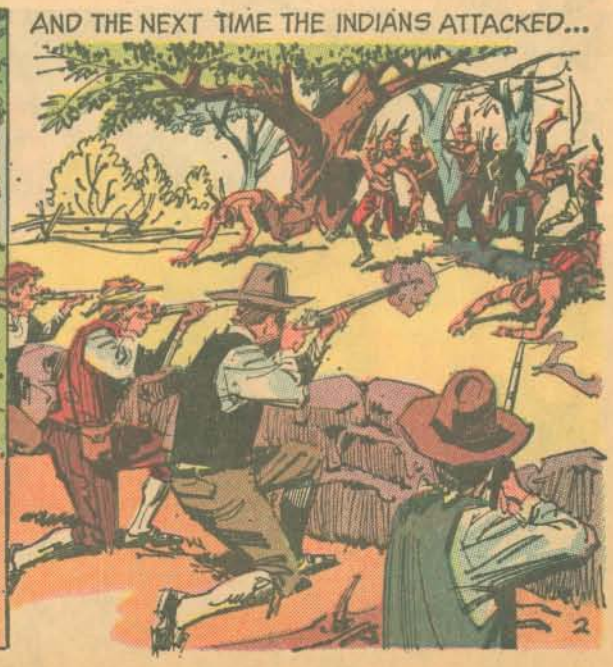


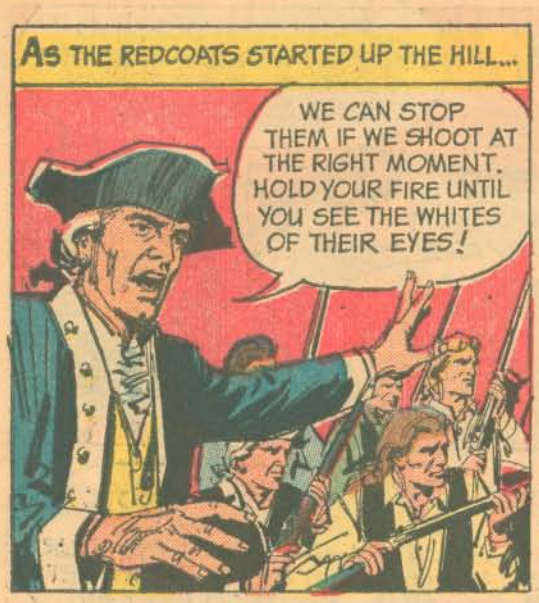
ON JUNE 17, 1775, THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR WAS JUST TWO MONTHS OLD... AND THE MILITIA, AND ITS INFANT COUNTRY FACED THEIR GREATEST TEST...

THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

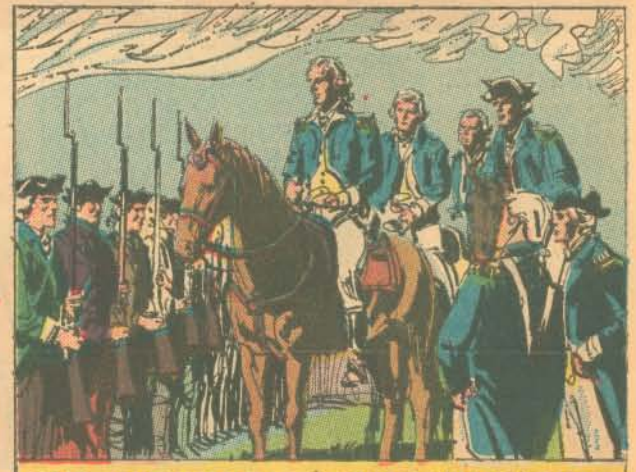
THE RUMOR WAS TRUE. THE BRITISH WERE SHIPPING REINFORCEMENTS INTO BOSTON.

THAT NIGHT...

NEXT MORNING, TWO RAGGED LINES OF AMERICAN DEFENDERS STARED DOWN BREED'S HILL... THE SEVEN CRACK BRITISH REGIMENTS LINING UP TO ASSAULT THEIR POSITION.



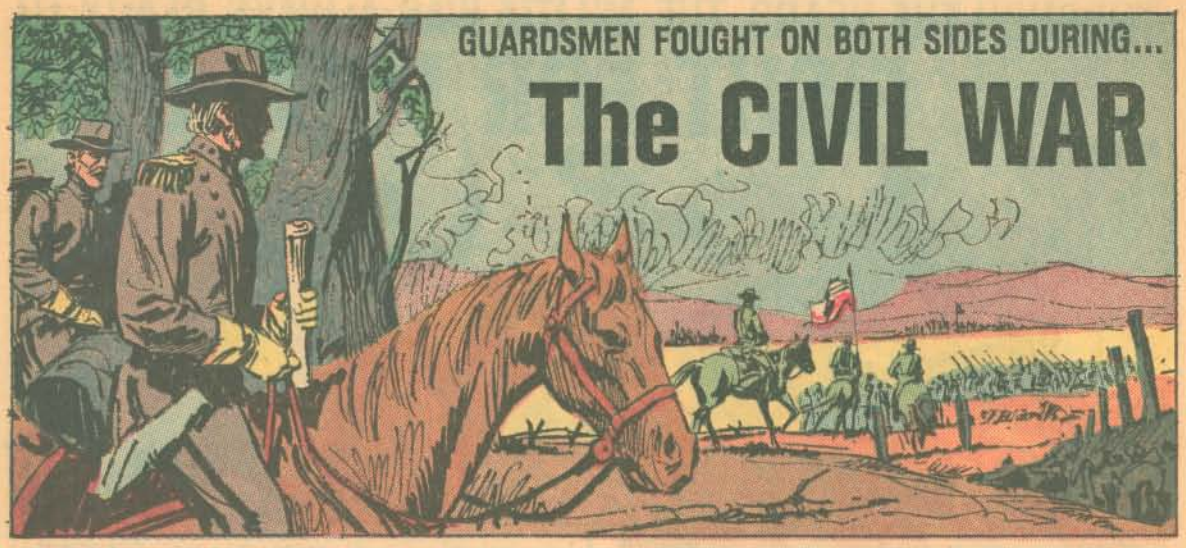
THE COLONIALS TOOK A TERRIBLE TOLL OF BRITISH LIVES AS THEY WITHSTOOD TWO ASSAULTS. BUT THE THIRD TIME, THE AMERICANS RAN OUT OF POWDER, AND THE REDCOATS FORCED THEM OFF BREED'S HILL.



BUT... THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL PROVED TO THE BRITISH AND THE WORLD THAT COLONIAL MILITIA—MADE UP OF FARMERS AND SHOPKEEPERS—WAS A MATCH FOR THE BEST INFANTRY FROM EUROPE.

THROUGH THE YEARS, THE MILITIA WAS ALWAYS READY TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

IT WAS THE TRIUMPHAL VISIT OF THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1824-25 THAT SERVED TO GAIN A NEW NAME FOR THE MILITIA. A BATTALION OF NEW YORKERS —CHOSEN TO BE LAFAYETTE'S HONOR GUARD, RENAMED ITSELF "THE BATTALION OF NATIONAL GUARD." AS A TRIBUTE TO LAFAYETTE, WHO HAD COMMANDED THE FAMED "GARDE NATIONALE DE PARIS." SOON, MANY MILITIA UNITS ADOPTED THE NAME "NATIONAL GUARD."



BUT THEN IN WORLD WAR I, THESE SAME TWO REGIMENTS FOUGHT SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN THE NATIONAL GUARD'S FAMED 42ND DIVISION THAT WAS NICKNAMED BY THEN COLONEL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR...

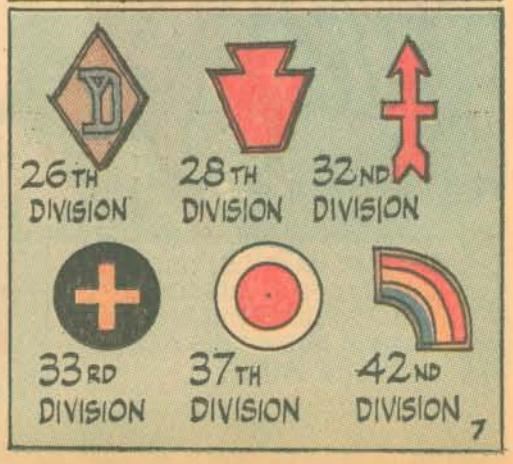
WHEN THE CALL TO COLORS SOUNDED IN WORLD WAR I THE GUARD WAS READY... AND IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE THAT SAILED TO FRANCE TO...

FIGHT THE HUN!

IN COMBAT, THE GUARD PROVED ITS WORTH...

GUARDSMEN OF THE 27TH AND 30TH DIVISIONS, SMASHED THE FAMED HINDENBURG LINE NEAR BELLICOURT.

OF THE EIGHT AMERICAN DIVISIONS RATED BEST BY THE GERMANS, **SIX** WERE NATIONAL GUARD UNITS. THEY WERE...



DID YOU KNOW THAT?

SIX GUARDSMEN BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN AMERICA ENTERED WORLD WAR II AFTER THE JAPANESE SNEAK-ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR ON DEC. 7, 1941, NATIONAL GUARDSMEN HAD ALREADY SWELLED THE RANKS OF BOTH THE REGULAR ARMY AND THE ARMY AIR FORCE. ONE GUARD PILOT WAS ADDISON E. BAKER OF OHIO, WHO ON AUG. 1, 1943, WAS DESTINED TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN A DARING LOW-LEVEL ASSAULT...

THE PLOESTI OIL FIELD RAID

A SECRET B-24 LIBERATOR BASE IN NORTH AFRICA...

COLONEL ADDISON BAKER, COMMANDER OF THE 93RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP, WATCHES THE PREPARATIONS WITH AN OLD FRIEND AND VISITING START-OFFICER, MAJOR JOHN JERSTAD...

2 A.M., AUG. 1, IN THE GROUP'S BRIEFING TENT.

A SHORT TIME LATER, 39 B-24'S OF BAKER'S GROUP WHICH WAS NICKNAMED THE TRAVELING CIRCUS, TAKE OFF TO RENDEZVOUS WITH FOUR OTHER GROUPS OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN.

IN THE COCKPIT OF *HELL'S WENCH.*

BUT THEIR PRECAUTIONS WERE IN VAIN, BECAUSE AT A GERMAN ADVANCE WARNING STATION IN GREECE...
ACHTUNG! AMERIKANISCHE BOMBER GRUPPEN KOMMEN!
ACHTUNG! AMERIKANISCHE BOMBER GRUPPEN KOMMEN!
AND MORE BAD NEWS WAS IN THE MAKING...
TAIL GUNNER TO PILOT, GROUPS 3, 4 AND 5 HAVE FALLEN BEHIND AND ARE OUT OF SIGHT.
WE MUST HAVE LOST THEM IN THAT LAST CLOUD BANK.
WE'LL HIT PLOESTI WITH EVERYTHING WE HAVE LEFT. LOOK, FLAK TOWERS AHEAD.
TAKING EVASIVE ACTION, BAKER LED THE TRAVELING CIRCUS DOWN TO TREE-TOP LEVEL, BUT THE GERMAN GUNS WERE ZEROED IN AND WAITING.
THEN JERSTAD MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY...
THAT FLAK ATTACK HAS FORCED US OFF COURSE. WE'RE HEADING TOWARDS THE CITY OF BUCHAREST... NOT PLOESTI.
WE CAN'T BREAK RADIO SILENCE TO ALERT THE OTHERS. LET'S HOPE THEY FOLLOW WHEN THEY SEE ME CHANGE COURSE.

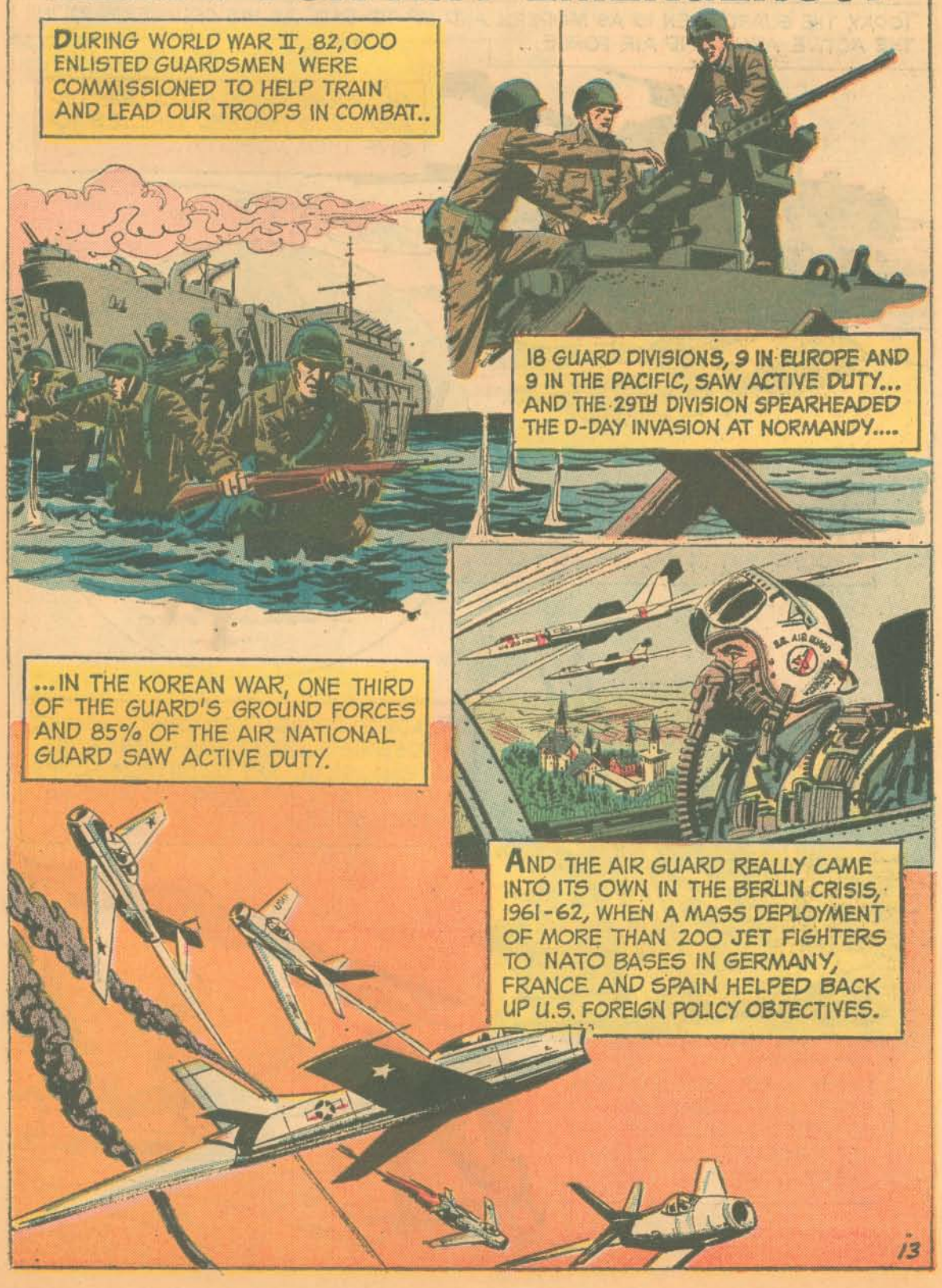
BAKER EXECUTED A 90 DEGREE LEFT TURN — AND ONE BY ONE HIS GROUP FELL IN BEHIND HIM...
THEN CAME THE GERMAN'S NEXT LINE OF DEFENSE...THE LUFTWAFFE....
FIGHTERS, THREE O'CLOCK! WATCH THAT ONE COMING IN AT 11, CHARLIE! COLONEL BAKER, WE'RE HIT!
WE'RE OVER THE TARGET! REFINERIES DEAD AHEAD...
THROUGH A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT, COLONEL BAKER KEPT HIS SHOT-UP PLANE IN THE AIR UNTIL HE WAS OVER HIS GROUP'S DESIGNATED TARGET AREA, AND THEN...
FOR BRAVERY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IN LEADING THE PLANES OF THE 93RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP TO THE TARGET AT PLOESTI, COLONEL ADDISON E. BAKER OF AKRON OHIO, WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR. BAKER WAS ONE OF THE 25 GUARDSMEN TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR VALOR IN WORLD WAR II.
VALOR

ALONG WITH ITS GALLANTRY IN WAR THE GUARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY TO SERVE IN PEACE...

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

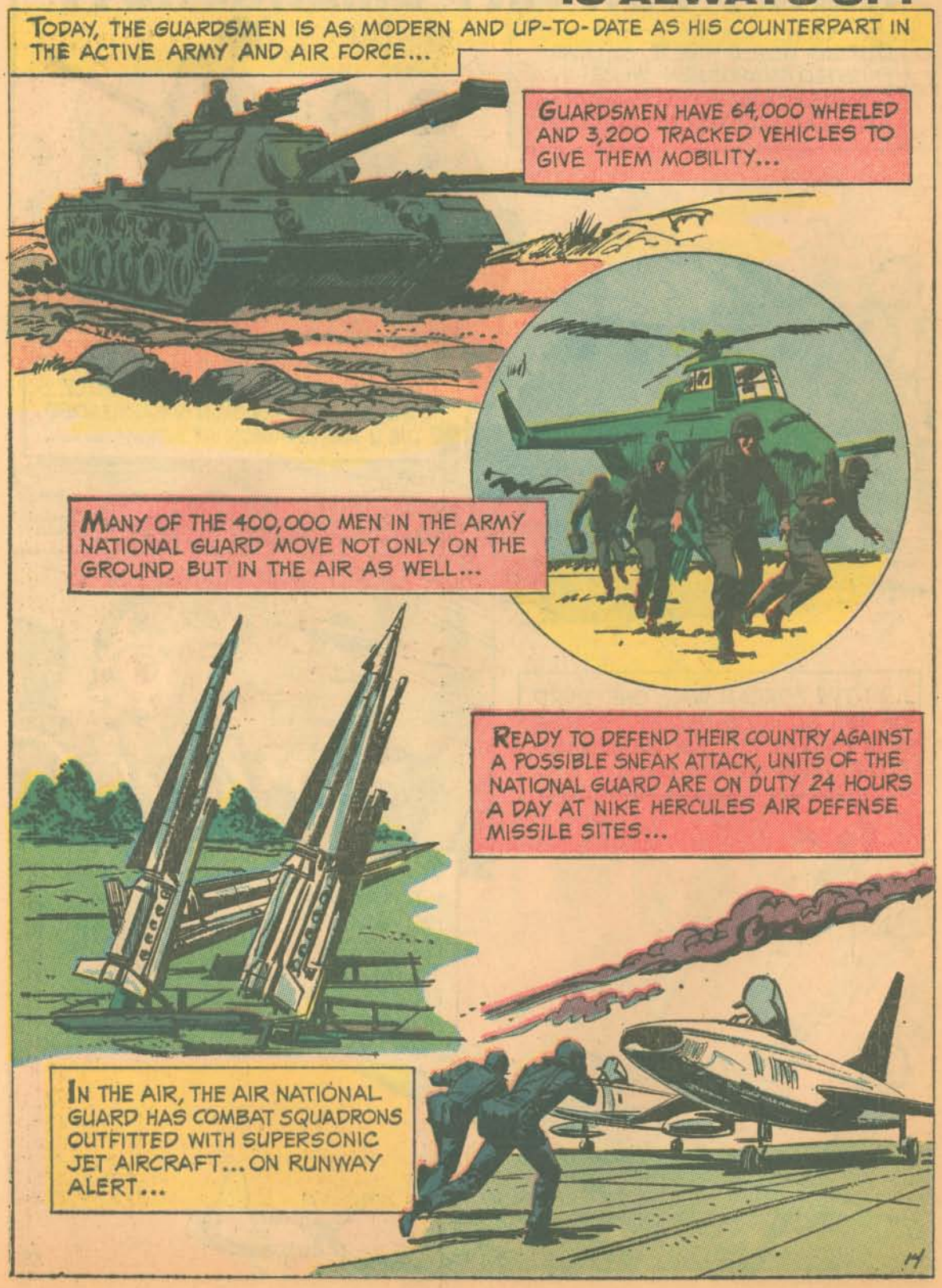
AFTER THREE CENTURIES OF SERVICE, AMERICA HAS LEARNED THAT ITS CITIZEN-SOLDIERS ARE ALWAYS...

READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY!



AMERICA'S GUARD

IS ALWAYS UP!



OTHER AIR GUARDSMEN FLY C-97 STRATOFREIGHTERS ON GLOBAL TRAINING MISSIONS. C-119 FLYING BOX CARS ARE USED ON AIR COMMANDO MISSIONS.
AND THERE ARE AIR GUARDSMEN TAKING PART IN AERIAL REFUELLING MISSIONS, IN FIGHTERS AND RECONAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FOR TACTICAL AIR COMMAND... AND OTHERS WHO DO NOT FLY NEVERTHELESS FILL IMPORTANT AIR GUARD ROLES AS SPECIALISTS IN RADAR COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRAFFIC CONTROL.
CERTAIN ARMY GUARDSMEN TRAIN TO STAY QUALIFIED FOR DUTY WITH THE CELEBRATED "GREEN BERET" SPECIAL FORCES UNITS.
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR OCCUPATION, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TIME TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW YOU WILL FIT IN BY VISITING THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY OR THE AIR BASE NEAREST YOUR HOME.
DO IT TODAY!
15

I AM THE GUARD

Civilian in Peace, Soldier in War . . . of security and honor, for three centuries I have been the custodian, I am the Guard.

I was with Washington in the dim forests, fought the wily warrior, and watched the dark night bow to the morning . . . At Concord's bridge, I fired the fateful shot heard 'round the world . . . I bled on Bunker Hill . . . My footprints marked the snows at Valley Forge . . . I pulled a muffled oar on the barge that bridged the icy Delaware . . . I stood with Washington on the sun-drenched heights of Yorktown . . . I saw the sword surrendered . . . I am the Guard . . . I pulled the trigger that loosed the long rifle's havoc at New Orleans . . . These things I knew — I was there! . . . I saw both sides of the War between the States — I was there! . . . The Hill at San Juan felt the fury of my charge . . . The far plains and mountains of the Philippines echoed to my shout . . . On the Mexican border I stood . . . I am the Guard . . . The dark forest of the Argonne blazed with my barrage . . . Chateau Thierry crumbled to my cannonade . . . Under the arches of victory I marched in legion — I was there! . . . I am the Guard . . . I bowed briefly on the grim Corregidor, then saw the light of liberation shine on the faces of my comrades . . . Through the jungle and on the beaches, I fought the enemy, beat, battered and broke him . . . I raised our banner to the serene air on Okinawa — I scrambled over Normandy's beaches — I was there! . . . I am the Guard . . . Across the 38th Parallel I made my stand . . . I flew MIG Alley — I was there! . . . I am the Guard.

Soldier in war, civilian in peace . . . I am the Guard.

I was at Johnstown, where the raging waters boomed down the valley . . . I cradled the crying child in my arms and saw the terror leave her eyes . . . I moved through smoke and flame at Texas City . . . The stricken knew the comfort of my skill . . . I dropped the food that fed the starving beast on the frozen fields of the west and through the towering drifts I ploughed to rescue the marooned . . . I have faced forward to the tornado, the typhoon, and the horror of the hurricane and flood — these things I know — I was there! . . . I am the Guard . . . I have brought a more abundant, a fuller, a finer life to our youth . . . Wherever a strong arm and valiant spirit must defend the Nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries, or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand . . . I am the Guard . . . For three centuries a soldier in war, a civilian in peace — of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever . . . I am the Guard.

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